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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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ADDRESS:
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

25, D. C.

MAY 17 1949

MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Secretary Warne
From: The Director, National Park Service
Subject: Virginia and Truckee Railway

With regard to Mr. MacMullen's suggestion that the National Park Service take over the old Virginia & Truckee Railway and establish it as a national monument, we are, of course, faced with the problem of having insufficient funds to operate those areas that are now in the National Park System. While the proposal I make would take the rolling stock of this railway out of the State of California, nevertheless, I believe it would be one way of preserving it.

I suggest that Mr. MacMullen write to Major Lenox Lehr, president of the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, and also, president of the Railroad Fair now being held in Chicago, and at which are exhibited and operated some of the early historic trains. There is nation-wide interest in this Fair and the average daily attendance last summer was over 46,000 persons. The exhibition of the old Virginia & Truckee rolling equipment at the Fair would give it public attention and subsequently the rolling stock could probably be preserved in the Chicago Museum or elsewhere.

Preservation of the entire railroad in some kind of operating condition would be impractical for any agency.

(SGD.) NEWTON B. DRURY
Director.